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No. 51 of 1897.]

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 18th December 1897.

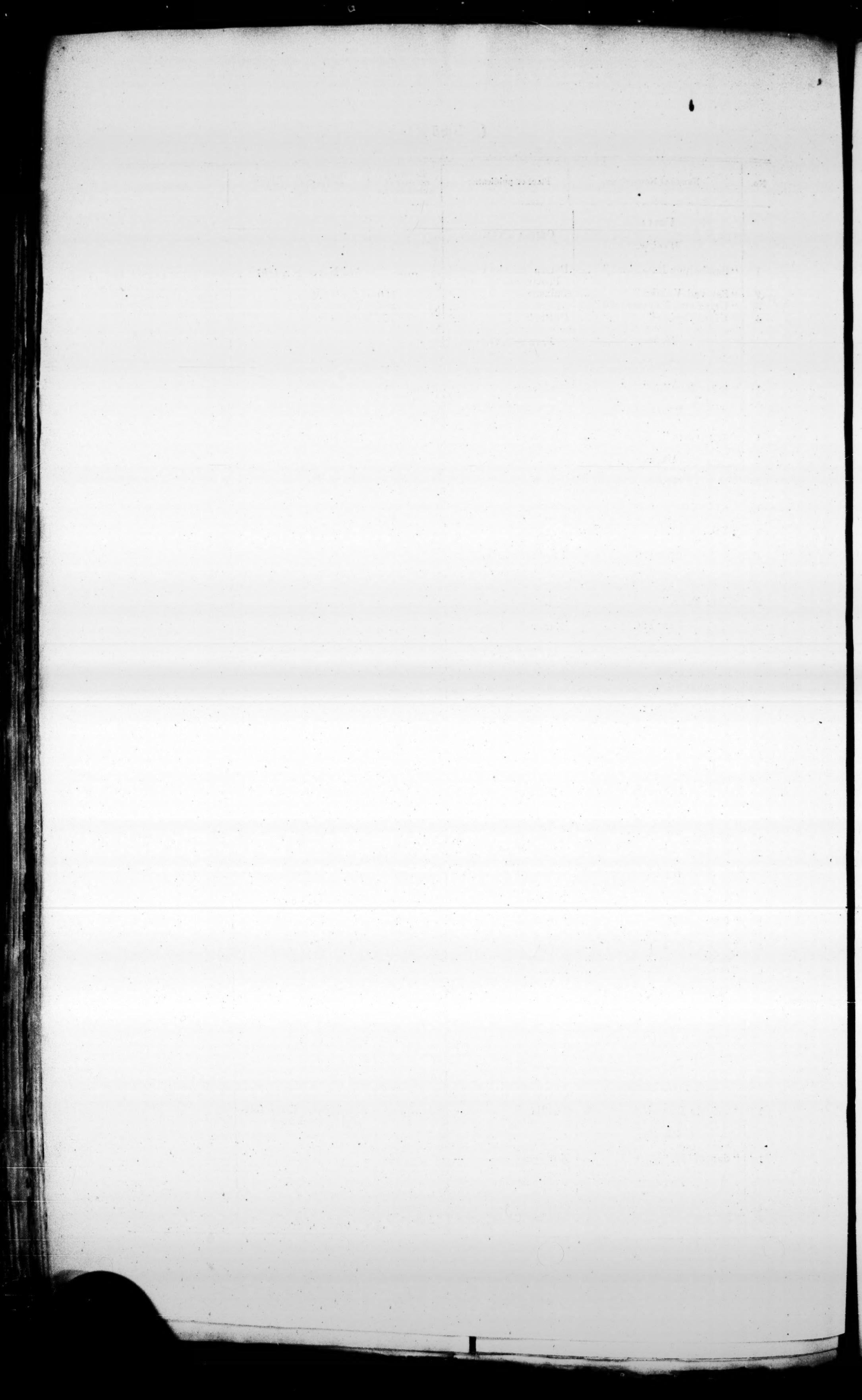
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LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
BENGALI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	" Bangavasi" ...	Calcutta	20,000	11th Desember, 1897.	
2	" Basumati" ...	Ditto	.....	16th ditto.	
3	" Hitaishi" ...	Ditto	800	14th ditto.	
4	" Hitavadi" ...	Ditto	About 4,000	10th ditto.	
5	" Mihir-o-Sudhakar" ...	Ditto	1,250	11th ditto.	
6	" Sahachar" ...	Ditto	About 500	8th ditto.	
7	" Samay" ...	Ditto	3,000	10th ditto.	
8	" Sanjivani" ...	Ditto	3,000	11th ditto.	
9	" Som Prakash" ...	Ditto	800	13th ditto.	
10	" Sulabh Samachar" ...	Ditto	.....	11th ditto.	
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	" Banga Vidya Prakashika"	Ditto	300	11th, and 13th to 17th ditto.	
2	" Dainik-o-Samachar Chan-drika."	Ditto	1,000	12th to 16th ditto.	
3	" Samvad Prabhakar" ...	Ditto	1,132	11th and 13th to 16th ditto.	
4	" Samvad Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto	200		
5	" Sulabh Dainik" ...	Ditto	Read by 3,000	11th, ditto.	
HINDI.					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	" Marwari Gazette" ...	Ditto	.....	
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	" Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto	2,000	2nd ditto.	
2	" Hindi Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	10,000	13th ditto.	
PERSIAN.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	" Hablul Mateen" ...	Ditto	500	13th ditto.	
URDU.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	" Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide"	Ditto	310	9th ditto.	
2	" General and Gauhariasfi"	Ditto	330		
<i>Tri-weekly.</i>					
1	" Nusrat-ul-Islam" ...	Ditto	.....	29th November, and 1st, 3rd, 6th, 8th, 10th and 13th December, 1897.	
BENGALI.					
BURDWAN DIVISION.					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	" Pallivasi" ...	Kalna	.....	12th December, 1897.	
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	" Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura	500	16th ditto.	
2	" Bankura Hitaishi" ...	Ditto	.....	
3	" Burdwan Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan	250	7th and 14th ditto.	
4	" Chinsura Vartavaha" ...	Chinsura	620		
5	" Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly	1,280	10th ditto.	
BENGALI.					
PRESIDENCY DIVISION.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	" Murshidabad Hitaishi" ...	Murshidabad	696	8th ditto.	
2	" Pratikar" ...	Ditto	603	10th ditto.	

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
	URIYA. <i>Weekly.</i>	ORISSA DIVISION.			
1	"Sambalpur Hitaishini" ...	Bamra in the Central Provinces.	.....	3rd November, 1897 ...	
2	"Samvad Vahika" ...	Balasore	190	4th ditto.	
3	"Uriya and Navasamvad" ...	Ditto	300	3rd ditto.	
4	"Utkal Dipika" ...	Cuttack	480	6th ditto.	
	HINDI. <i>Monthly.</i>	PATNA DIVISION.			
1	"Bihar Bandhu" ...	Bankipur	About 600		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Aryavarta" ...	Dinapur	1,000	11th December, 1897.	
	URDU. <i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Al Punch" ...	Bankipur	500	10th ditto.	
2	"Gaya Punch" ...	Gaya	400		
3	"Tah Zeeb" ...	Patna	.....	
	BENGALI. <i>Fortnightly.</i>	BHAGALPUR DIVISION.			
1	"Gaur Varta" ...	Malda	.....	9th ditto.	
	BENGALI. <i>Weekly.</i>	RAJSHAHİ DIVISION.			
1	"Hindu Ranjika" ...	Boalia, Rajshahi	243	1st ditto.	
2	"Rangpur Dikprakash" ...	Kakina, Rangpur	180	.....
	HINDI. <i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika." ...	Darjeeling	700		
	BENGALI. <i>Fortnightly.</i>	DACCA DIVISION.			
1	"Faridpur Hitaishini" ...	Faridpur	.....	14th ditto.	
2	"Kasipur Nivasi" ...	Kasipur, Barisal	315		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Barisal Hitaishi" ...	Barisal	.....	10th ditto.	
2	"Charu Mihir" ...	Mymensingh	900	6th ditto.	
3	"Dacca Prakash" ...	Dacca	2,400	12th ditto.	
4	"Sanjay" ...	Faridpur	.....	10th ditto.	
5	"Saraswat Patra" ...	Dacca	About 500	11th ditto.	
	ENGLISH AND BENGALI. <i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca	500	13th ditto.	
	BENGALI. <i>Fortnightly.</i>	CHITTAGONG DIVISION.			
1	"Tripura Hitaishi" ...	Comilla	.....	Agrahayan, first fortnight, 1894 B.S.	
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Sansodhini" ...	Chittagong	120		
	BENGALI. <i>Assam.</i>	ASSAM.			
1	"Paridarshak-o-Srihattavasi" ...	Sylhet	.....	
2	"Silchar" ...	Silchar, Cachar	.....	



IL.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

THE Hitavadi of the 10th December says that the wife, niece and grandson of Karim Khan, an Honorary Magistrate of Gorakhpur, were detained in *hajat* on a suspicion of having murdered him. The niece has now been released for want of evidence. Who is responsible for this detention in *hajat* of a *pardanishin* Muhammadan lady? The Magistrate, the Sessions Judge and the High Court were moved in vain for the release of these people on bail. Is this not a striking illustration of the power of the police in this country to harass innocent people and of the inability of even the High Court to grant any redress?

2. The same paper says that the delay in the production of evidence against Damodar Chapekar, who has confessed his guilt and circumstantially described every fact, naturally gives rise to suspicion. It is reported that his brother has been arrested in the Nizam's State. The writer waits to see whether Chapekar's trial will now be resumed.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

3. **The Chiru Mihir** of the 6th December complains that since the time of Mr. Harding much jobbery has been prevalent in the Mymensingh district in the appointment of ministerial officers and in the distribution of work to the Court amins, owing to the District Judge leaving this business entirely to his chief ministerial officer.

Those Court amins who are not in the good books of the chief ministerial officer, though competent men, are not given much work. There is a Court amin for Jamalpur, but he is given work mostly in Tangail. For various reasons the Court amins in this district have found themselves unable to maintain their honesty. This is causing great hardship to the weaker parties in partition and other cases in which local investigation by Court amins is necessary and in which the Court has to rely entirely upon the reports which are submitted by the amins. There is also no supervision of the amins' work. They are never taken to task for protracting work for a week or two to a month or two. The diaries submitted by the amins are probably never seen by the District Judge. All this has made the amins fearless and bold, and they have become as extortionate as police officers. As relying entirely upon the amla in these matters will never remove the evils complained of, it is hoped that the present District Judge will make proper arrangements for the distribution of work to, and the supervision of the work of, the Court amins.

4. **The Murshidabad Hituishi** of the 8th December regrets that Mr. Levinge, Magistrate of Murshidabad, will have shortly to leave that district in order to take up his new appointment in the Board of Revenue. By

his good qualities, Mr. Levinge endeared himself to the people of Murshidabad, who will ever remain grateful to him for the trouble he took and the kindness he showed to the poor during the late famine. For a long time Murshidabad had not the good fortune to see such a Magistrate. May Mr. Levinge live long and attain greater success in life.

5. **The Hitavadi** of the 10th December says that during Mr. Heard's stay of several years at Deoghur some have become his favourites while others have incurred his displeasure. Mr. Heard's judicial proceedings are often found to be influenced by good-will or ill-will to particular individuals. The reader perhaps remembers how, on account of his friendship for the Manager of the Rohini Estate, Mr. Heard refused to entertain last year a case brought against him by Kasi Babu. Cases have happened in which Mr. Heard has at first refused to entertain plaints filed by those with whom he is displeased, but has subsequently been compelled to entertain those plaints at the order of the Deputy Commissioner. Here is an instance in point. In April last a civil appeal case was instituted in

HITAVADI,
Dec. 10th, 1897.

HITAVADI.

CHIRU MIHIR,
Dec. 6th, 1897.

MURSHIDABAD
HITUISHI,
Dec. 8th, 1897.

HITAVADI,
Dec. 10th, 1897.

Mr. Heard's Court. Either from affection for the appellant or from displeasure against the respondent Mr. Heard disposed of this case in a way which has excited the surprise of even the Commissioner of the Bhagalpur Division. Mr. Heard fixed the very day after the institution of the appeal for its hearing and served the respondent with notice on the preceding evening. The respondent appeared and prayed to be informed of the substance of the appellant's plaint. His prayer was refused. He then tried to explain his case, but Mr. Heard refused to hear him and proceeded to write his decision. The respondent having then cited a ruling of the High Court Mr. Heard sarcastically observed :—

" You may better quote here the rulings of an African High Court."

The Commissioner of the Bhagalpur Division thus commented on Mr. Heard's proceedings in this case :—

" The proceedings in this case, which is an important one, are *very faulty* and must be regularised. The method of action in this case has been to admit the appeal on the 21st April and to decree it next morning by the light of a quantity not before the first Court or in issue or notified to the respondent or on the record. This was *quite wrong* and *quite contrary to the approved practice* of the Sonthal Courts. Apart from the policy of this course, the course followed by the Subdivisional Officer in this case has *not* been *fair* to the respondent. I therefore set aside Mr. Heard's decree, dated 22nd April 1897, and remand the appeal to be heard by him in the proper way. He will write a fresh judgment, clearly setting forth the law and orders and references governing the case, and then remand it to be properly tried, to the Deputy Collector, Babu Debi Prosad, whose first trial of it has been so *imperfect*. * * * "

C. E. OLDHAM,

Commissioner.

BHAGALPUR,
The 5th July 1897.

It is doubtful whether Mr. Heard has been brought to his senses by this censure, for the writer will show that he has not failed to deal unfairly by the respondent even in fresh proceedings.

HITAVADI,
Dec. 10th, 1897.

The Manager of the Chittagong
Wards' Estates.

6. The same paper puts the following questions in connection with the management of the Chittagong Wards' Estates by the present Manager :—

(1) Whether a female land-owner, named Latipa Khatun, has not sued the Manager for compensation to the extent of a little less than Rs. 10,000 for remissness displayed by him in the management of a particular *mahal* in her estate, and whether the Manager is not trying to compromise the case, and, if so, whether he is doing this with the permission of his official superiors ?

(2) Whether it is true or not that no steps were taken to realise rent to the amount of Rs. 2,000 in the estate of Surendravijay, rent to the extent of Rs. 1,000 in the estate of Rajkrishna Banerji, and rent to the extent of Rs. 900 in the estate of Fazal Ali Khan, on the ground that it was unrealisable, and whether there is any precedent for leaving rent to that extent unrealised on such a ground ?

(3) Whether the two estates, namely, "Rajaram" and "Ajij Janchharat," purchased in 1890-91 for the estate of Fazal Ali Khan, were willingly sold by their owner, and whether the estates have yet been settled ?

(4) Whether the estate "Kanaram," purchased in 1891-92 for the estate of Surendravijay, has been settled yet ?

(5) Whether the charge of Rs. 78 per mensem which the Manager and Assistant Manager used to make for the management of the estates of Joges Chandra Roy has not been, on the release of that estate, laid on other estates ?

(6) Whether the post of Assistant Manager was not created for the purpose of survey work in the estates of Fazal Ali Khan and Rajkrishna Banerji, and why has not the post been abolished after the completion of that work ?

7. The same paper has received a complaint that Babu Avinas Chandra Mukharji, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector of Serampore, comes to Court at nearly 2 P.M., and after holding Court for a little while, goes home for tiffin. On his return at about 5 P.M., he does treasury work for nearly an hour. After this he indulges for some time in pleasant talk with his *amla*, and then takes up cases and holds Court up to nearly 9 P.M. to the great inconvenience of the parties. The authorities should make an enquiry into this complaint.

8. The same paper has received a complaint that Kumar Gopendra Krishna, Sessions Judge of Nadia, is in the habit of summarily rejecting all jail appeals irrespective of their merits. A prisoner, named Jaddi Shaikh,

instituted in his Court a jail appeal, which was rejected by him. The prisoner having then instituted a regular appeal through a pleader, the file of the case in the subordinate Court was called for, but the District Magistrate refused to deliver it, on the ground that the jail appeal had been rejected. The Kumar was now in a great difficulty. He now represented to the High Court that his order in the jail appeal had been passed through a mistake. The order in question was quashed by the High Court on this representation. The appeal was then tried and the appellant was released.

The editor always hears the Kumar praised and little expected to hear such a complaint against him. The editor hopes that the Kumar will henceforth try to do justice to poor prisoners.

9. The *Pratikar* of the 10th December says that under two successive sympathetic Magistrates, Messrs. Kennedy and Levinge, the people of the Murshidabad district have enjoyed uninterrupted happiness for some years. They will not easily forget the sympathy shown by Mr. Levinge with the poor in the late famine. His anxiety to provide dwelling accommodation for his subordinate officers after the earthquake also secured him everybody's blessing. In fact, whoever came in contact with him could not fail to be impressed with his affability.

10. The *Sanjay* of the 10th December fails to see why Babu Dwaraka Nath Mitra, Additional Sessions Judge of Faridpur, has been suddenly transferred to Chapra. Babu Dwaraka Nath has gained the good opinion of everybody in Faridpur within the short time he has been there. His conduct as a judicial officer and as a private gentleman is worthy of imitation by most officers of his Department. It is hoped that the people of Faridpur will bid him adieu in a fitting style.

(c)—*Jails.*

11. The editor of the *Hitavadi* continues the narrative of his jail experiences in his issue of the 10th December:—

The jail experiences of the editor of the *Hitavadi*. When Shaikh Magbul was transferred from the Burdwan Jail to Calcutta his health was certified as good by the medical officer of that jail. But it by no means appears that his health was particularly good at that time. He was transferred on the 24th February, and was on the 25th brought, in due course, before the medical officer of the Presidency Jail for examination. In the Presidency Jail his health was ascertained to be very bad, but he was not admitted to hospital; neither was any medicine prescribed for him. He was at first put on the special gang. To put a prisoner on the special gang means to put him to light work and to allow him nutritious diet.

The unfortunate Magbul gained in weight by a few days' rest. This gain in weight was taken by the native doctor as a proof of his convalescence. Magbul had to do light work: he was employed as a *duttry*. The following entry occurs in the medical officer's minute:—

“10-4-97. He was getting medicine daily from the time of his admission.”

Alas! the medical officer did not know that far from medicine being given to him every day, his order about giving him medicine had not been obeyed.

HITAVADI,
Dec. 10th, 1897.

HITAVADI.

PRATIKAR,
Dec. 10th, 1897.

SANJAY,
Dec. 10th, 1897.

HITAVADI,
Dec. 10th, 1897.

A prisoner who was employed in the medicine department told me that Magbul's weight had increased to 107 lbs. on the 4th April, and the native doctor discontinued the supply of medicine to him from that date.

The medical officer has had to admit in the above minute that Magbul was employed on light work. He remained so employed up to the 8th, no one having ventured to take him to hospital on the preceding night, because the native doctor gets angry if any body disturbs him at night. The poor man was admitted to hospital on the day he died (according to English calculation on the preceding morning). He did not remain in hospital even for 24 hours. The medical officer has recorded this in the above minute:—

"He was removed from special gang to light work (on the 29th March 1897) at which he remained till he came into hospital on 8-4-97."

Many may suppose from this that a prisoner has to do light work when put on special gang or ordered to be employed on light work. But it is a mistake to think so. The unfortunate prisoners put on special gang have often to work regularly hard without the authorities knowing anything of the circumstance. We can prove this from books. An entry in the medical officer's minute for this very year under date 1st February shows that prisoners whom he thinks unfit for hard work are set to do such work. Hear his own words:—

"1-2-97. I notice that several convicts whom I have put on the special gang are put on medium and hard work in the press. I should like it to be understood that when a man is put to the special gang it is intended that he should *ipso facto* be put to light work only, unless it is specially reported otherwise by myself. F. O'K."

The Superintendent made the following observations on this minute of the medical officer:—

"2-2-97. Undersigned understood that all special gang men were treated as on light labour. How is it that they were put to the harder forms of work without being passed as fit by the medical officer?"

Indeed, only people concerned in the work of a press know how hard is the labour imposed on a press *dustry*.

The man was admitted to hospital on the morning of the 8th; but even then he did not receive proper medical treatment. The native doctor did not see him once during the 7 or 8 hours immediately preceding his death. The native doctor saw him last at 5-30 P.M. A great sensation was created by the man's death, and with a view to conceal his own fault the native doctor cancelled with his own hand the entry in the ticket and wrote that he saw the patient at 11-30 P.M.

He had written 5-30, and he altered it to 11-30, adding a few words. The former entry was as follows:—

"Last seen by the medical subordinate at 5-30 P.M."—A. C. Roy.

The entry, as altered, stands as follows:—

"Last seen by the medical subordinate
11-30 & point of death
at 5-30 P.M. —A. C. Roy."

The ticket of a deceased prisoner has to be kept. The ticket, therefore, still remains in the jail, and the authorities can easily satisfy themselves whether or not it has been altered as above. The worthy doctor did not see that the altered entry was meaningless.

There is no fear of being called upon for an explanation so long as a prisoner lives, and when a prisoner dies, all difficulties are got over in this way. In the case of Magbul, the doctor of the Presidency Jail, in a manner, laid his death at the door of the Burdwan Jail; but no one knew what the medical treatment and nursing the man received here was really like. Visitors will declare on a superficial inspection:—"We find all the sanitary arrangements good. Every place is neat and clean." But how shall we be taken in by outward glitter? We are simply astounded at the real state of things.

Many are probably under the impression that in jails patients are treated by European doctors and that there are good arrangements for nursing and diet, and it is to remove this impression that we have written so explicitly.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

12. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* of the 6th December says that the drying up of the Lauhajangha river and the want of tanks in Nagarbari in the Mymensingh district have caused a serious outbreak of malarial fever in that village. Cholera, too, has lately made its appearance there. In view of the dangerous situation in which the people of this and other villages on the bank of this river would be placed in case of the stream drying up, the villagers more than once petitioned the District Board to adopt measures for keeping up the flow in it by stopping up its outlet at Nalchhoba, but without success. It is hoped that the Chairman of the District Board will soon issue orders for stopping that outlet.

CHARU MIHIR,
Dec. 6th, 1897.

(h)—General.

13. The *Charu Mihir* of the 6th December has the following:—

If Mr. Tilak had not been a friend of the Government, he could not have become a member of the Bombay Legislative Council. He has submitted to the punishment which the High Court of Bombay thought fit to inflict upon him. There is no use regretting the refusal either of the Bombay High Court to grant him leave to appeal or of the Privy Council to admit a special appeal on his behalf. But the people of India may ask for mercy on Mr. Tilak's behalf from Her whose boundless clemency saved the life of Francis. If Mr. Tilak is not granted a complete remission of his sentence, he ought, at least, to be imprisoned without labour. India will be grieved if he dies a slow death in jail. The Government has pardoned the *Poona Vaibhav*. The *Pratod* has got its sentence reduced, and the *Modvritta* has got only simple imprisonment. If Government now reduces Tilak's sentence, it will mean no weakness on its part. The British Lion is invincible and his prowess is unbounded. With mercy that prowess will look brighter.

CHARU MIHIR,
Dec. 6th, 1897.

14. The *Sahachar* of the 8th December has the following:—

Mr. Stevens as Officiating Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

The delight with which the inhabitants of Bengal will hail Sir Alexander Mackenzie back to the *musnud* of Bengal will not, however, be unmixed with regret at the circumstance that his worthy *locum tenens*, Mr. Stevens, will soon leave the country for good. Mr. Stevens has been a friend of the people, and in every rank of the Civil Service, which he has filled, he gave proof of his ability, large-heartedness and solicitude for the people confided to his care. The people of Nadia, where he served as a Magistrate, entertain the highest respect for him. As Sir Alexander Mackenzie's *locum tenens*, he showed that he possessed in a full measure all the good qualities which are required in a ruler. If Mr. Stevens' term of service had not been completed, he would, undoubtedly, have been appointed Lieutenant-Governor after Sir Alexander's retirement. It makes one tremble to think of the incidents which occurred during Mr. Stevens' short term of office as the ruler of Bengal; but his wonderful ability, calmness, patience and mildness enabled him to get the better of every untoward circumstance. In Sir Alexander Mackenzie's absence no other Civilian except Mr. Stevens could have so successfully fought with the situation. The organization of famine relief measures in Bengal and Bihar was completed by Sir Alexander Mackenzie, but it was Mr. Stevens who had to encounter the thick of the fight and achieve a victory over the enemy, which he did like a hero. Mr. Stevens put down the Tala riot without wounding Muhammadan feeling. A man must be possessed of extraordinary resources to be able to settle such a matter so easily and without giving offence to any body. During the riot some Anglo-Indian papers made insinuations against the native press. But Mr. Stevens saw that it was the native press which gave correct accounts of the disturbance and thereby helped the Government in putting it down quickly. Mr. Stevens' action in the earthquake and the Chittagong cyclone showed that he is a man of a large heart and is possessed of a very high order of intellect. It is true, the plague regulations which have been promulgated by

SAHACHAR,
Dec. 8th, 1897.

his Government have not given satisfaction to everybody. But as he has done all he could to respect the manners and customs of the people, there ought to be no discontent on the score of these regulations.

It was, in short, not in the power of many Civilians to have ruled and protected the people of Bengal as Mr. Stevens did during the last few months. Having spent the best portion of his life in Bengal, Mr. Stevens has formed a strong attachment for the province. It was a sincere expression of regret that he made at St. Andrews' Dinner that he was going to leave the country for good. His Honour is not probably aware that the people of Bengal, on their part, are extremely sorry to lose him. The Bengalis are possessed of gratitude and they will make him a present of it when they bid him adieu, in memory of the services he has rendered them. If every Civilian followed in Mr. Stevens' footsteps, India's happiness would know no bounds; but there are unfortunately few Civilians who care as much for the people as Mr. Stevens.

SAHACHAR,
Dec. 8th, 1897.

15. The same paper hopes that on New Year's Day titles will be bestowed on Pandit Nilmani Nyayalankar, Principal of the Sanskrit College, and upon Babu Rama Nath Ghosh, zamindar, who is known for his public charities.

Recommendations for New Year's Day honours.

Babu Ambica Charan Bose, late Personal Assistant to the Director of Public Instruction, should get a Rai Bahadurship.

SAMAY,
Dec. 10th, 1897.

16. The *Samay* of the 10th December regrets that Mr. Stevens is soon going to make over charge of the Lieutenant-Governorship to Sir Alexander Mackenzie, who returns to India on the 20th instant. It is a misfortune

to the people that they will have to lose the services of such a popular ruler so soon.

PRATIKAR,
Dec. 10th, 1897.

17. The *Pratikar* of the 10th December says that if titles of honour be intended as a reward for good actions, then

Three zamindars recommended for titles.

Government should see that Rani Arnakali Debi,

Kumar Asutosh Nath Rai, and Rao Jogendra

Narayan Rai, all zamindars of the Murshidabad district, get some titles. The charities of these three public-spirited zamindars must be well known to the Government.

HITAVADI,
Dec. 10th, 1897.

18. The *Hitavadi* of the 10th December thinks that the constitution of the Famine Commission would have been perfectly satisfactory if there had been a native member on

it. The writer cannot understand why native members are not employed on Commissions.

HITAVADI.

19. The same paper says that an indigo-planter seeing a goat near his factory, and at the same time observing a Musalman pass by, asked him whether the goat was his. The Musalman having replied in the negative, the

planter went into his bungalow and came out with a gun. The gun was discharged and the Musalman was shot down. The planter pleaded that he had aimed at the goat. The writer thanks the Bengal Government for taking the opinion of the Legal Remembrancer on this case. Admitting for argument's sake that the man was shot by an accident, when will such accidents cease? Many natives have lost their lives in such accidental way. Either the Arms Act should therefore be extended to Europeans also, or such careless Europeans be severely punished. Nothing short of this will put a stop to such accidents.

HITAVADI.

20. The same paper says that people who are fond of sensation are seeing the fearful form of plague in every direction.

The Plague Regulations.

The plague has yet appeared nowhere within the

limits of the Bengal Presidency, and yet Government is busy devising means to prevent its spread. We do not forbid Government to adopt precautionary measures, but its first care should be to see that people are not unnecessarily alarmed. Government's Plague Regulations have alarmed residents of large towns. Fear is depicted on many countenances in Calcutta. Everybody thinks that people's honour will not be safe if the regulations are carried out. Many propose to leave Calcutta. Many people have already left Patna. A similar report has been received by the writer from Gaya. Government should act calmly at this juncture.

21. The Bengali, observes the *Sanjivani* of the 11th December, is not a coward. History bears eloquent testimony to his courage and martial qualities. During the Muhammadan rule Maharaja Protapaditya and Sitaram Rai rendered a good account of themselves as soldiers. According to Malcolm Bengali soldiers fought side by side with European soldiers in the beginning of the British rule in India and helped the British not a little in the founding of an empire in this country. Sures Chandra Biswas, a Bengali youth, has made himself conspicuous as a soldier in Brazil, and the Maharaja of Cooch Behar, a Bengali Chief, has rendered valuable services to General Lockhart in the Tirah Expedition. All these are unquestionable proofs of the Bengali's martial qualities, and it is difficult to understand for what reason, for what act of infidelity the Bengali has been deprived of the right of serving in the army. But the Bengali has not only been deprived of the right of serving in the army; he has also been disarmed. As a consequence of this warlike sports and pastimes are fast going out of use in Bengal, and the Bengali is becoming effeminate day by day. This process of mental and physical emasculation is going on slowly but steadily.

To check this national emasculation and remove from the mind of the Government every distrust of the Bengali's fidelity, educated Bengalis have long been praying the rulers to grant them the privilege of serving the Queen as volunteers. This loyal prayer, however, has so long been all in vain. Very lately Babu Priyakanta Majumdar, zamindar of Islampur, in the Murshidabad district, applied to the Governor-General for permission to serve as a volunteer. In reply, Lord Elgin has given him to understand that he is at liberty to have himself enrolled as a member of one of the Volunteer Corps in existence if they had no objection to take him. The reply is worthy of a politician. No European Volunteer Corps is likely to enrol a Bengali as its member, and the zamindar of Islampur has no chance of gratifying his desire. If the Government has no objection to Bengalis serving as volunteers, why does it not give permission for the formation of a Bengali Volunteer Corps?

22. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 11th December is grateful to Government for the measures it is taking to check the spread of the plague, and hopes that, in view of the dangers and hardships which await pilgrimage to Hedjaz, all Musalmans will take the Government's advice and postpone their *hujj* for the present year. Educated Musalmans should explain the Government notification to their illiterate co-religionists. It is the outcome of the Government's solicitude for the health and safety of its subjects.

23. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 12th December is glad that the names of Nawab Ahsanulla Bahadur, Raja Rajendra Narayan, Maharaja Suryya Kanta, Raja Sri Nath Rai and Rai Jogendra Kisor Chaudhuri have been favourably mentioned in the Dacca Administration Report and the Government Resolution thereon. But it is a matter of regret that whilst praise has been bestowed upon certain zamindars, of whom public report never speaks well, the names of Jahnvi Chaudhurani, of Santosh, Rai Abhay Charan Mitra, Bahadur, of Rajabari, and Babu Syama Prasad Rai Chaudhuri, of Kasimpur, have not been noticed. It will not conduce to the Government's good name if its praise can be secured by mere officiousness displayed before Magistrates and Commissioners. To place the bad in the same category with the good is also an insult offered to the latter.

24. The *Som Prakash* of the 13th December is astonished to find some names in the list of the Rai Bahadurships which were conferred the other day at Belvedere. One fails to see the qualifications which entitled those men to honours. No Bengali pandit received the title of Mahamahopadhyaya. It is hoped, however, that Pandit Ajit Nath Nyayaratna, the glory of Navadwip and Bengal, will before long receive the title. The authorities should also recognise the meritorious services of Babu Chandra Narayan Singh, M.A., Deputy Magistrate, by giving him a Rai Bahadurship.

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Dec. 11th, 1897.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Dec. 11th, 1897.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Dec. 12th, 1897.

SOM PRAKASH,
Dec. 13th, 1897.

SOM PRAKASH.
Dec. 13th, 1897.

25. The same paper considers the two prayers made in the British Indian Association's memorial to the Government against the plague regulations as of a very important character. The Government's object in proposing segregation in hospitals and camps intended for the

purpose is certainly good; but in many cases the measure will do harm instead of good. There seems to be no reason for snatching away from home and relations sick persons who can be extremely well segregated and attended to at home. Home segregation with every necessary precaution can by no means spread infection. Infection, for instance, is not spread by cholera and small-pox patients, who are generally treated at home. If there is, however, fear of the spread of infection from home segregation, some disinfectant medicine may be used by healthy members of the family in which a plague case occurs.

The suggestion about associating a medical member of the Plague Commission with the Health Officer in the examination of suspected cases, instead of having the examination done by the Health Officer alone, is a very reasonable one. The work is a delicate and difficult one; and, however efficient and experienced the Health Officer may be, he will be liable to error. In the last year's plague scare in Calcutta, about a dozen persons were suspected as having been attacked with the disease, but on examination by the Medical Board not a single plague patient was detected among them. Under these circumstances, it is hoped that the Government will calmly consider the memorial and accept the suggestions offered in it.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

CHARU MIHIR,
Dec. 6th, 1897.

26. The *Charu Mihir* of the 6th December observes that the Criminal Procedure Bill should have cleared up the point whether the finding of a District Magistrate on a motion under section 435 can be forwarded by the Sessions Judge to the High Court with his adverse remarks thereon, when such finding appears to him illegal or improper.

The amendments made in section 555 have been introduced in spite of the adverse remarks repeatedly made on the subject by the High Court. This seems rather inexplicable.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Dec. 7th, 1897.

27. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 7th December has the following:—

The Criminal Procedure Bill. Under the existing Criminal Procedure Bill a person suspected to be a habitual offender may be ordered to execute a bond with sureties for good behaviour, and may, on his failure to do so, be sent to jail. We do not know whether there is any other country in the world in which a person, who has committed no offence, can be punished in this way. In this country, at any rate, innocent people have, in accordance with the provisions of the section under notice, often to rot in jail. The Criminal Procedure Bill proposes to enhance the rigour of these provisions by making not only a person who is believed by the public to habitually commit theft, robbery, &c., but also one who is, in the opinion of the police, "a character so desperate and dangerous as to render his being at large without security hazardous to the community," subject to the provisions of sections 110, 118 and 123. The Bill under notice, moreover, proposes to empower a Magistrate to order a habitual offender to be kept under police supervision instead of being required to execute a bond for good behaviour. The proposed amendments are sure to produce mischief. The Bill does not say what is meant by "police supervision." It does not say what the police can or cannot do with a view to keep a strict supervision over the offender in question. The powers of the police in regard to this matter are not defined. The police is in fact invested with unrestricted and unlimited powers, and is thereby given an opportunity to oppress innocent people. Even in cases in which the police may not be oppressively inclined, it may cause very great hardship to those under its power simply by reason of its inability to arrive at a correct decision. To take one instance, a so-called habitual offender may be in urgent need of attending his mother on her deathbed at a distant place, but the police may think that it will interfere with its keeping supervision over him to allow him to go out of his place of residence. It will be causing great hardship to the people to invest the police with such powers as may often lead to such undesirable consequences.

If the Bill is passed in its present shape, the police will have the opportunity of harassing any person who may have incurred its displeasure, and of keeping him absolutely under its sway. People may also wreak their vengeance upon their enemies by setting the police against them under the cloak of the proposed provisions. But this is not all. The Bill does not say in what cases a Magistrate may order a person to be kept under police supervision instead of requiring him to execute a bond with security for good behaviour. This is sure to lead to a great anomaly. There will be no uniformity in the decisions of Magistrates. A particular case may, in the opinion of one Magistrate, be such a case as to require police supervision, while in the opinion of another a similar case may not require such supervision. The Bill does not, moreover, require a Magistrate to state his reasons where he orders a person under section 118 to be kept under police supervision instead of requiring him to give security for good behaviour. It is true that under section 367 of the Criminal Procedure Code a Magistrate is required to state the grounds on which he makes an order. But, having regard to the definition of trial given in the Bill, it is doubtful whether the provisions of sections 366 and 367 will apply to orders passed under section 110 or 118. Injustice is sure to result from this uncertainty in the law.

The severity of the amendments proposed in the Bill have really astounded us. So far as we know cases under sections 110 and 118 of the Criminal Procedure Code are few and far between, not because it is under the existing law difficult to prove whether an offender is or is not a habitual offender, but because it is not thought necessary to prove that he is such. The proposed amendments will only serve to unnecessarily increase the number of cases under sections 110 and 118, and thereby increase the chances of police oppression. It is true that the rigour of the law is sure to be materially toned down in its execution by a wise and experienced Magistrate, but the chances of such a thing taking place are not very great under the Bill. For it empowers Presidency and District Magistrates, and them alone, to order the taking of security in lieu of passing an order for police supervision. It is indispensably necessary to empower all Magistrates to revise their orders in such cases and order those to give security whom they have already kept under police supervision.

28. The Government, observes the *Bangavasi* of the 11th December, has made up its mind to consolidate and amend the The Criminal Procedure Bill. law relating to Criminal Procedure in India. The amending Bill proposes to introduce an entirely new provision into the Criminal Procedure Code, a provision which it is necessary to discuss.

The writer then quotes sections 561 and 562 of the Criminal Procedure Bill and proceeds as follows:—

It is no doubt desirable that a first offender, a person, that is, who has never before committed an offence, should be let off with a warning instead of being imprisoned or fined for the very first offence which may be proved against him. All are sure to thank the Government in one voice for the salutary provision it proposes to introduce in section 561 of the Criminal Procedure Bill. Revenge is not the object of the criminal law. It is the object of that law not to take vengeance upon an offender, but to prevent social disorder by adequately punishing him with a view to make others who are criminally disposed take a warning from his example. A first offence is generally committed on the spur of the moment. Ignorance, the promptings of an uncontrollable passion, or force of circumstances may sometimes drive even a good man to the commission of a crime. It will be doing more harm than good to society to punish such a man for his first offence and brand him with ignominy for life. On this, if not on any other ground, it is desirable to let off a first offender with a warning and give him a chance of reforming himself.

There is another reason why first offenders should be let off without punishment. It is our experience that in this unfortunate country innocent people are not infrequently proved guilty through the machinations of enemies. For this the law courts are not so much to blame as those malicious people who successfully mislead Judges and Magistrates by manufacturing false cases and bearing false witness against those upon whom they make up their minds to be

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avenged. Innocent people, however, are punished, it does not matter through whose fault. If, therefore, there is a law giving the Court the discretion of letting off first offenders, it gets an opportunity of not falling into an error, and malicious people are discouraged in their endeavour to conspire against their enemies. For if these people once come to know that in spite of all their efforts and machinations their enemies may be let off without punishment, they will no longer feel inclined to get up false cases and manufacture false evidence. Society is thus most likely to be benefited. From whatever point of view, therefore, we look at the question, the provision for the letting off of first offenders without punishment is sure to produce good results.

But, unfortunately, the provision contained in section 561 is so beset with restrictions that it is likely to fall far short of achieving the desired object. The scope of the section is limited. It is applicable only to a certain class of offences. But we do not object to this; the scope may be enlarged if the provision in question prove successful after a fair trial. It is to the restrictions with which the provision is hedged in that we feel inclined to object. A first offender must fulfil six conditions before he can expect to be released. He cannot be released under the section—

- (1) if a previous conviction is proved against him,
- (2) If he is not of young age,
- (3) If he does not bear a good character,
- (4) If his antecedents are not satisfactory,
- (5) if the first offence committed by him is not of a trivial nature, or
- (6) if there be no extenuating circumstances under which the offence was committed.

It is true that the provision in question is, as it were, "charity" rice to the first offender—a favour, a gift. It is also true that one must not look a gift horse in the mouth. But it is unquestionable that few cases are likely to arise in which a first offender will fulfil all the six conditions laid down in section 561. It is difficult to appreciate the practical utility of a provision which is limited by formidable conditions the violation of any one of which will deprive a first offender of the privilege which it is mercifully proposed to grant him. We would have no objection to the section if it had been made clear to us that the fulfilment of some of the aforesaid conditions would entitle a first offender to the privilege of being let off without punishment. If it is not the intention of the Government to make the fulfilment of the six conditions obligatory for the release of a first offender, it ought to make that clear by substituting "or" in the place of "and" in the section under notice.

In our opinion, it is not right that an offender shall not be released if a previous conviction is proved against him, no matter how small the offence for which that conviction was secured. Suppose that Ram was once fined eight annas for abusing a person and is subsequently convicted of technical theft for cutting a tree on a joint estate. It is not right to punish him in this latter case, because a previous conviction has been proved against him. If it is not the intention of the Government to deprive an offender of the privilege of being let off without punishment on such a trivial ground, the words "for an offence of a similar nature" should be inserted after the words "no previous conviction" in section 561.

The expression "youth" in section 561 is not defined. We do not also understand the necessity of making the youth of an offender a condition of his release. Suppose that a man of sixty against whom no previous conviction is proved slaps another man in the face in a moment of passion. Where is the harm of releasing such an offender although an old man?

One word more. If it is the object of the framers of the Bill to release a first offender convicted of a trivial offence, why this attempt to circumscribe the provision with such formidable restrictions? This section, we beg to submit, ought to be worded more clearly. Better make no provision at all than make such an intricate and unintelligible provision.

29. The *Sanjivani* of the 11th December has the following:—

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Dec. 11th, 1897.

The Criminal Procedure Bill. Section 162 of the Criminal Procedure Bill is
under section 161," i.e., statements of persons examined by the police, reduced
objectionable. This section makes "a police diary

to writing, inadmissible in evidence. So long police diaries under section 172 were treated as confidential and the accused had no access to them. But the Bill under notice proposes to make even police diaries under section 161 as much confidential as police diaries under section 172. This will go hard with accused persons in most cases as it will deprive them of the opportunity of baffling police conspiracies and of demolishing false evidence manufactured by the police. By virtue of the decision of the Calcutta High Court in the case of Muhammed Ali Haji and Bhiku Khan the accused had so long the right of calling for the police diary under section 161 and using it for his own purpose. This decision has been further confirmed by a later decision of the same High Court. It is true that the Allahabad High Court has very lately held a different opinion, but this opinion is not a unanimous one, and it cannot certainly be held in greater regard than the decision of the Calcutta High Court. It is a pity that Sir Henry Prinsep, who was long a Judge of the Calcutta High Court, should attach so little importance to the decisions of that Court and hold a decision of the Allahabad High Court in much greater regard. It is a regret also that a man of his judicial experience should make a proposal which is sure to stand in the way of an impartial administration of justice. We would have had no cause for regret if the proposal under notice had come from a Police Commissioner, an Inspector-General of Police, or a District Magistrate. But it strikes us as strange that Sir Henry Prinsep of all persons should come forward to deal a death-blow at an impartial administration of justice in India. The mover of the Bill does not say that the decisions of the Calcutta High Court regarding police diaries under section 161 have given rise to an increase of crime or caused lawlessness to prevail in the country. It is, therefore, a mystery to us why an attempt is going to be made to override those decisions by introducing an amendment to the Criminal Procedure Bill, the inevitable effect of which will be the punishment of innocent people through the machinations of the police.

30. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 11th December says that quite a conspiracy has been formed against Mr. Charlu's Religious Endowments Bill. It is not yet known who are the prime movers in this conspiracy; but in the southern quarter of Calcutta their agents are getting people's signatures to a memorial against the Bill under false representations. One of the agents represented that Sir Romesh Chandra Mitra, Mr. Justice Banerji and Mr. Justice Ghose had signed the memorial, a statement which appears to be of doubtful correctness.

SULABH DAINIK,
Dec. 11th, 1897.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

31. The *Hitavadi* of the 10th December writes as follows:—

The St. Andrew's Dinner speeches. The Saint Andrew's Dinner will always be remembered by Indians, if Scotchmen in this country can inspire them with the Scotch virtues of valour and patriotism. The Anglo-Indians have come to the conclusion that the native press is bent upon increasing the ill-feeling between the rulers and the ruled, and Mr. Allan Arthur, who proposed the toast of "the Viceroy and the land we live in" at the late St. Andrew's Dinner, is not free from this prejudice. Mr. Arthur said that elderly natives who had experience of other kinds of Government were in a position to appreciate the excellence of British rule, and that with their disappearance a new class had sprung up who aspired after a new sort of administration, so that the native press could see no merit, but only defects in the British administration. If Mr. Arthur had been acquainted with the true condition of the country, he would have known that there has never been any difference of opinion regarding the excellence of British rule; only the Indians have now learnt to agitate about grievances, which they once took to be the inevitable portion of a conquered people, and to expect redress where no redress was once thought possible. With the march of progress the Indians can know from newspapers of occurrences taking place in distant parts of the country. The residents of Lahore can now know of the rupture of a cooly's spleen at Madras. If Englishmen wish to know what the people think of their administration they must be prepared for adverse as well as for favourable criticism.

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We, however, heartily sympathise with the following words of Mr. Arthur's:—

"Each one of us can help to alter this state of things by treating our fellow subjects with the courtesy which is due from man to man, and with the rectitude which is the pride of the British nation."

Anybody who knows the native character is aware that natives are overpowered by the least kindness shown to them. It is a fault of the Anglo-Indians that they cannot bear adverse criticism. A cry was raised about the disloyalty of the native press, and the Anglo-Indians believed it without enquiry or reflection. It should be easy to imagine the feelings of other Anglo-Indians, when even a thoughtful man like Mr. Allan Arthur can find fault with the native press for appearing in black for Tilak's imprisonment.

It is a matter of rejoicing, however, that the Officiating Lieutenant-Governor, Mr. Stevens, put in a good word for the native press. We understand that the noble-minded Mr. Stevens has incurred the displeasure of many Anglo-Indians by his implied censure of the *Englishman* and his explicit eulogy on the native press. We hope, however, that generous Anglo-Indians will agree with His Honour.

32. The same paper has the following:—

HITAVADI,
Dec. 10th, 1897.

Who are the true rebels?

The public cannot be reasonably expected to feel any respect for the Governor of Bombay after the meanness which he has displayed by striking Tilak's name off the list of fellows of the Bombay University. Tilak is confined in prison with a diseased body, but unsubdued spirit. This is a matter of great rejoicing, but the grief and anxiety we feel on learning that he is getting weaker and weaker defy description.

Even if Tilak dies, the extraordinary example he has shown of courage and largeheartedness will result in the improvement of the country in many ways. Certain officials in Bombay asked Tilak to lower his head and apologise, but Tilak is a man and not a coward. There is no want in this country of beings who clap their tails between their legs at the least frown. The example of courage and devotion to duty which Tilak has set to these men will not be lost. Tilak could have escaped all this suffering and indignity by a little humiliation. But he was not prepared to lower the head of his country and countrymen from a fear of personal suffering and harassment. He is undermining his own constitution, and yet he has done nothing for which his devotion to duty can be called in question. Such an example is very rare in this unfortunate country and among this down-fallen people.

It is the misfortune of those who say that we have always been abused and kicked, that our forefathers passed their days in slavery, and that it is therefore our duty to lick the feet of the officials and to bear all their oppressions in silence, that they have not profited even by this example.

Indeed, if there are any rebels in this country, it is these men. When these men say that every oppression must be borne in silence, they mean either that oppression should be put down by the employment of force, or that it should be borne without complaint. But if this be loyalty, may we never learn such loyalty! By the favour of the English Government we have acquired various rights, and we are not prepared to give them up on any account. If we forget our duties by ourselves, by our country and by our sovereign from a fear of incurring the displeasure of particular officials and from a fear of harassment and oppression, then we are undeserving of any right whatever. No person and no nation in this world has met progress without struggle, effort and self-sacrifice. If we desire to improve our position, we must be prepared to make a little self sacrifice. If we expect of the officials a redress for oppressions and if we venture to complain against them, we must pronounce them wrong who accuse us of hostility to the Government. To do so is not defiance or display of a spirit of haughtiness, but to seek redress in the way which is indicated by the Government. They are true rebels who, instead of acting in this way, bear oppression in silence, and fall prostrate in order to implore forgiveness, but at the same time secretly sigh and weep, leaving it to God to redress all wrongs. We have not learnt to cry victory to *husoor*, and at the same time to pray for Government's harm. If we could think that there was no hope of progress for

us without the subversion of British rule, we should have flattered the English Government with words of mouth and secretly wished its downfall. But he who is convinced that the road to our future progress will be widened or narrowed according as the English system of administration improves or deteriorates will not shrink from laying down his life, to say nothing of going to jail.

33. The same paper has the following:—

"The night is all but gone."

Breaking the silence of the dark night comes, a long while after, the sweet strain of music—"the

night is all but gone." But alas! why at this dead of night, sitting as I do in this room lighted with a dimly burning lamp do my heart-strings vibrate in unison with this burden of a sweet song once heard before, but which now borne from a distance, is but faintly heard? The world is still asleep, enveloped in darkness. The morning air has not yet wafted far and wide the fresh fragrance of new-blown flowers. The morning sun has not yet gilded the eastern sky with its crimson rays. The music of birds all singing in a chorus has not yet roused sleeping men from their slumber. The morning twilight is not yet visible. Still in this midnight some one sings, cutting me to the quick—"the night is all but gone."

Alas! this night is not a sweet, delightful night; a night of joy, of rejoicing is not and cannot be like this. I cannot even for a moment believe that the end of this mournful night is at hand. So this hopeful but untimely assurance disturbs my mind, sends a shivering through my body and casts me adrift, as it were, on a sea of anxious thought.

I saw the sun setting in the west, engulfed in the darkness of the clouds. Has the time for the rising of that sun come so soon? If not, why do you, unknown singer, sing—"the night is all but gone."

Will this night pass away? In the solitude of the night echo still prolongs the roars of the nocturnal rovers, reverberated as they are in a hundred directions. The wild and fiendish dance of fearful *Rakshasas*, kinsmen of death, still goes on. Thieves and robbers are still prowling about, bent on mischief. But the singer, quite unconcerned and unaffected, sings—"the night is all but gone." Singer, if you had not lost your power of observation, if you could have even for a moment fixed your attention on outside things, if you had not kept yourself totally unacquainted with what is taking place and where you would not have, at dead of night, discoursed music so sweet—"the night is all but gone," you would not have agitated the minds of others with your sweet song.

To my mind, this night is perhaps night eternal and will know no end. There is darkness on all sides and terror reigns supreme. Now and then terrific roars, not heard before, make my heart quail and sink. How can I persuade myself to believe that this night will ever end, that this terror will pass away and all these fearful sights will be seen no longer? O singer, you must certainly be beside yourself or you could not be so unaffectedly and so joyfully lost in music. If all these terrors had been visible to you, you would not have certainly had the heart to discourse music so freely and joyfully, and enchant my mind with your sweet song.

Foolish singer, do not awaken sleeping men from their slumber with your melodious song. Come to me and I will show you a sight which you will never forget—which will, so to speak, dry up your tongue. Then, tongue-tied, you will cease singing, and terror-struck, earnestly wish the night were at an end. You would no more joyfully and melodiously sing—"the night is all but gone." I wish that you could see with my eyes and hear with my ears.

O what a difference is there between you and me—between my seeing and your seeing. In the sky which will appear to you as an azure dome bespangled with innumerable diamonds, I shall see, roving about, hosts of *danavas* of fearful appearance. I shall see innumerable, indistinct, dreadful forms fleeting in and away in the shades of night across the blue firmament and in the faint light of the stars. If the night had really all but gone, I would have been spared this dreadful sight. I would not have had to see these dreadful shapes again and again. But this night, alas, is not going to end!

Enraptured singer! look attentively at the sky and you, too, will see these shapes of *danavas*. Look at that huge and terrible monster (*danava*), rising

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in the south-west and moving towards the north-east. He is kicking with all his force at thousands of men and women who, in the agony of death, are piteously crying for protection. Their heart-rending cry fills the air. Do you not hear it?

Look again at the sky in another direction and you will see another fearful shape as hideous as the gate-keeper of hell. This fearful shape has girded up its loins to oppress the weak. His heart is cruel and impervious to mercy. His mind is poisoned with malice and prejudice. His religious sense, his intellect and his judgment are clouded with the gloom of ignorance. You are undone if you once incur his displeasure. This fearful monster is, of course, sure to depart with the night. But the night, alas, is not likely to end!

Many more *danavas* are within my view, some fat, some lean, some almost reduced to skeleton, some standing motionless, and some running hither and thither. Seeing all these, how can I be deceived by false hope and join you in your song—"the night is all but gone."

Kindness, justice, religiousness, conscientiousness, these are the qualities for which man can boast of his superiority to the beast. But are not these *danavas* cutting at the very root of all these virtues by enforcing the rule of beastly force? The *daityas* have taken advantage of the night to carry on their devilish dance. But when at the touch of the delightful morning breeze the goddess of the east will open the flood-gates of light, these hideous shapes will, on the approach of that light, vanish with the darkness of the night. It is because I have this conviction firmly rooted in my mind that your song makes my hair stand erect. My mind is thrown into anxiety, and I shiver as hope and despair act and react against each other. As you sing, I cast my glance mournfully at your face, and lost in thought I anxiously ask within me—"will this night really pass away?"

Unknown singer, I cannot deny that your enchanting song has, for the nonce, made me see the end of this endless sea. Your song has, for a moment, dispelled the pervading gloom and let in a faint ray of light. But as a fleeting spark of lightning makes darkness intensified, so does your melodious and inspiring song make, by contrast, the gloom of this night doubly gloomy. I have no right to disturb you. Sing on at the top of your voice, and your song will not be all in vain if it can, even for a moment, divert the mind of a single individual. I, too, will, in order to divert the minds of others and make them happy even for a moment, sing to the tune of your song—"the night is all but gone."

AL PUNCH,
Dec. 10th, 1897.

34. *Al Punch* of the 10th December says that there seems something strange in the statement of a correspondent of the *Englishman* newspaper. The *Englishman* newspaper. in the statement of a correspondent of the *Englishman* that he has come in contact with a constant reader of two frontier newspapers, namely, the *Afzali Times* and the *Orakzai Mirror*. One fails to understand what the *Englishman* means a newspaper of the *Englishman's* position is not expected to speak nonsense.

BASUMATI,
Dec. 16th, 1897.

35. The *Basumati* of the 16th December writes as follows:—

The Government's and people's duty to each other. It is impossible for those who have to govern a large empire like India to see everything with their own eyes and never to fail in their duty. When a private individual cannot, in his limited dealings with friends and relatives, always keep to the path of duty and justice, and when we, the inhabitants of the country, do not ourselves always know with certainty the feelings and opinions of our own countrymen, it is no wonder that foreign rulers should at times fall into error in dealing with their subjects. Every civilised nation looks after its own interests, and wishes to increase its own happiness. But such a nation does not also neglect the interests and happiness of its alien subjects. The Indians ought to be grateful to the English for the civility they receive at their hands. They should also remember their position, and, while striving to improve their national condition, they should lend every support to their rulers in all their just acts. Popular support and sympathy enable rulers to do much good. It is certainly very gratifying to see a ruler caring as much for the interests of his subjects as he does for his own. But subjects should not grumble if their sovereign is a bit more mindful of his own concerns than he is of theirs, for that is perfectly natural.

The English have been in possession of this country for about a century and a half, and we are learning to be intimate with them. We have learnt to discuss with Englishmen on equal terms, but we should not be sorry if we do not always succeed in gaining our point. We have learnt political agitation. But political agitation may be good for an independent people like the English, but not good for a subject people like us. The rulers and the ruled should never quarrel. All differences between them must be settled without outside help. Unanimity between the sovereign and the subject is good as against external enemies. Englishmen should pay heed to these words and make up their differences with their subjects. That will be for the good of themselves as well as of their subjects.

The Indians' duty, on the other hand, should be to try to understand the system under which the English, a people superior to them in strength, learning and intelligence, are ruling India, and to learn to criticise the faults of the Government in a friendly spirit. They should remember that it would be infinitely more efficacious to calmly point out the faults of the administration than to raise a cry against the rulers every time they make a mistake. It is of no use embarrassing the Government by bitter criticism. The Government on its part should calmly decide whether a certain expression of discontent goes so far as to amount to sedition. Enlightened statesmanship requires this. May God soon send the day when the English and the Indians, though related as sovereign and subject, may live together as brothers.

URIYA PAPERS.

36. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* of the 3rd November has admitted a correspondence attacking the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Balasore Municipality for certain alleged irregularities which are said to have been practised in the realisation of the house and latrine taxes in that Municipality and for delay in widening the Akhrasal street, a work that should have been completed long ago.

The Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Balasore Municipality.

taxes in that Municipality and for delay in widening the Akhrasal street, a work that should have been completed long ago.

37. The *Utkaldipika*

The Balasore National Society's prayer for the conferring of certain powers on the Orissa zamindars.

of the 6th November endorses the prayer of the Balasore National Society, contained in their memorial forwarded to Government in September last, to confer certain powers on the zamiudars, which will enable them to realise their rents from their raiyats in due time. The writer observes that the provisions of the Bengal Tenancy Act are generally in favour of the raiyats, and section 78 of the Rent Recovery Act, India Act X of 1859, which was in favour of the zamindars, does not find a place in it. If the Managers of Wards' Estates, where a record of rights and rents has been formally prepared, are allowed to realise their rents by the Certificate Procedure, why may not the zamindars of Orissa be entrusted with similar powers, when the present settlement, after it is over, will have recorded the rights and rents of tenure-holders, under-tenure-holders, raiyats and under-raiyats in all their minutest detail? At least the zamindars stand in need of a summary and simple procedure for the collection of their rents, without which they can never be in a position to meet the Government demand in time. The writer further argues that Government should abolish the revenue sale law and agree to realise public demands of revenue on a more equitable and humane principle. The system of receiving arrears of revenue on payment of interest within a specified time may very well be adopted.

38. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* of the 3rd November is sorry to find that

Incompetent teachers in the Sambalpur School.

Uriya-knowing teachers should be appointed as lower teachers of that school.

39. The same paper mourns the death of the Raja of Kalahandi, who was murdered by one of his dismissed servants, and requests the local authorities to make a thorough enquiry into the matter.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Nov. 3rd, 1897.

UTKALDIPAKA,
Nov. 6th, 1897.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
Nov. 3rd, 1897.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 18th December 1897.

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CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

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